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INFORM

COUNTRY Ecuador

SUBJECT Manuel Medina Appointed "Supervigilant" of
Guayaquil Communists

PLACE ACQUIRED 25X1A6a

DATE OF INFO

DATE DISTR. 13 December 1948

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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25X1X6

1. Roberto Morena, Brazilian Communist who recently visited Ecuador, appointed Manuel Medina as "supervigilant" of the Communist Party in the Guayaquil area. Although it is not quite clear what Medina's duties will be, it is assumed by local Party leaders that he will be expected to report on their activities.
2. Several lower ranking Communist leaders believe Medina's appointment may cause complications within the Party, since Medina had previously been removed from any position of power in the Party by Pedro Saad and Enrique Gil Gilbert. However, since the appointment was made by Morena, who is suspected by Party leaders of being a Cominform agent, Party members are afraid to take action against Medina.
3. Gil Gilbert and Saad are particularly apprehensive over Medina's selection, since he will have a great deal of authority with little responsibility to local leaders. Medina is also a close friend of Alfredo and Pedro Vera, both of whom are anxious to attain the positions presently held by Saad and Gil Gilbert. Morena overruled any objections to Medina's appointment since the latter is Vice President of the University of Guayaquil and as such he can arrange to have that institution sponsor a meeting of the Peace and Democracy Movement.
4. Pedro Vera has already been designated by Medina to go to Quito to receive certain Party instructions, which, according to Morena, will arrive shortly from Mexico. Party leaders believe these instructions will contain reorganization plans made on Morena's recommendation after his conferences with local leaders in Ecuador. The instructions will also outline a plan of action to be taken by local Communists against basic industries. The petroleum industry is considered to be the primary objective for the Communists in Ecuador.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 10

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 73/1763

Date: 08 MAY 1978 By: 24

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